

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. -23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising the steps of obtaining or preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein the invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of isomerized olefins and paraffin hydrocarbons blended with esters, and wherein the esters comprise at least about ~~10~~ 46 weight percent and less than about 99 weight percent of the blend, the paraffin hydrocarbons comprise less than about ~~90~~ 54 weight percent of the blend and the isomerized olefins comprise less than about ~~90~~ 54 weight percent of the blend, and circulating the drilling fluid in the wellbore during drilling.

25-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, or mixtures thereof.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.

35.-36. Canceled

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the isomerized olefins have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.

38. (Previously presented)⁷ The method of claim 24 wherein the isomerized olefins are selected from the group consisting of internal olefins, cyclic olefins, and mixtures thereof.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the internal olefins may be straight chain or branched chain.

40.-44. Canceled.